Elan

The hemline theory: Can skirt length predict the state of economy?

Metro / A19

Missionary seeks return of father

Business / B1

August inflation seen surging to over 6%

Science

New breast cancer drug better than standard cure–study

World / A8

Italian journalist hostage killed in Iraq

Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin? / A16



Going loco over virgin coco



President cuts security convoy to save on gas

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Prepare for '2 years of pain'

Palace exec tells LGUs: Expect huge cuts in public spending



LOCAL governments must prepare for "two years of pain," Malacañang's top communications official said in Baguio City as the Palace set in motion an ... campaign to rally local officials behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to cut expenditures and retain part of their revenue allocations to help avert fiscal collapse.

3 provinces in state of calamity; death toll hits 17

RP debt service is ₱646B, says Recto

US envoy vows: No retaliation vs Manila

By TJ Burgonio

200 congressmen OK pork cut–JDV

'Massacre of trees' in QC enrages environmentalists



Cannibalism eats up town's tourist image

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

No more stumbling blocks to gov't-MILF peace talks

Charges vs 4 MILF suspects pushed

By Philip C. Tubeza

Dilangalen just won't fade away

DOJ seeks Strunk's extradition anew

By Philip C. Tubeza

NEWSBRIEFS

Let RM awardee travel, China told

Jury awards $551,000 to Pinay

What crisis? Palace hikes OPS budget

SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE









Medal or bust for Geisler, Rivero

Remaining medal hopes face tough rivals





Lopez still at a loss over ring debacle

First-time winner Taiwan strikes twice; US leads tally

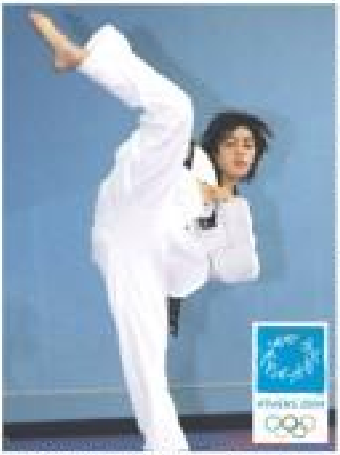


President cuts security convoy to save on gas





Medal or bust for Geisler, Rivero



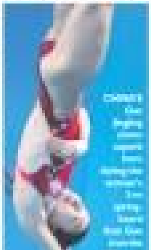
MOMENT OF TRUTH: Maria Antoinette Rivero will have a relatively easy passage to the final if she hurdles her first fight.

Lopez still at a loss . . .



LOPEZ

First-time winner . . .



Olympics, SEA Games big business

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

Sputtering 4th for RP in Putra Cup



The WORLD

Sadr agrees to end Najaf conflict; 74 dead in Kufa

[illegible]



[illegible]

Islamist group kills Italian hostage in Iraq

[illegible]

Red Cross launches major aid push for Darfur

[illegible]

S'pore hospital slashes prices

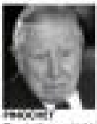
[illegible]

WorldBriefs

Kuwait firm bows to kidnappers

[illegible]

Pinochet's immunity revoked



PINOCHET

[illegible]

Palestinian killed in Gaza blast

[illegible]

Wife of Kim Jong-il reported dead

[illegible]

UK police arrest radical cleric Abu Hamza

[illegible]

Explosives traces found in crashed Russian plane



Number of impoverished, uninsured Americans grows

Asian women seen having 'lost faith in marriage'

CdO hosts triathletes tomorrow

[illegible]



REYES



PAGULAYAN



BUSTAMANTE

Bata, Alex head On Cue 3 field

[illegible]

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Belasco eyes long-term pact with SMB

[illegible]



BELASCO

[illegible]

Laguna Spring five stakes lead in southern swing

[illegible]

NY-born hurdler gives D. Republic historic gold



US completes track sweep

ATHENS—United States athletes dominated Olympic athletics events Thursday night, sweeping the men's 200, winning gold in the men's long jump and impressing in the women's 4x100 relay heats.



Bring medals, leave wreaths behind

Sprint winner once lost to zebra

Football star Hamm ends career in style

KO'd Central African fighter hospitalized

Politics mutes Taiwan's celebration



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Text us your feedback



Basics

BARBERSHOP and coffee shop talk has long revolved around the need for government to get back to basics. The detachment of government from the public is demonstrated by the inability of many officials to observe this basic and widespread yearning. How often have we heard the average person grumble, after some grand political pronouncement, that if only the little things could be made to work, the big things might eventually get better?

EDITORIAL

The optimism—fanciful or not—and the big plans of government have been made hollow by the experience of the average person. Nothing is more revealing than the anecdotal evidence of widespread petty criminality affecting the average shopper, commuter and worker. In particular, cell phone and wristwatch snatching, jeepney and bus holdups, pickpocketing and other petty crimes have added paranoia to the ever-increasing misery of our daily lives.

So when newly minted PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay announced that he would concentrate on deploying cops to markets, malls, commuter centers and congested thoroughfares, people stood up to listen. We are prepared, at this point, to withhold the usual skepticism that an increased police presence will just increase opportunities for cops to mulct the people. Rather, we hope, as many citizens do, that we will see a corresponding drop in the occurrence of petty crimes.

If Aglipay's zeal to make a splash in the lives of the many brings results, it only goes to show what we have pointed out over and over again: things can get done, if only people concentrated on doing their jobs. If an increased police presence results not in trumpeted, manufactured government statistics, but in the best whispering campaign of all—the anecdotal accounts of happier, safer citizens—then we would have seen that a fresh start is possible.

And really the possibilities are endless. If all it takes is an energetic PNP chief willing to make surprise drop-in inspections and actually issue sensible deployment orders to his men and women, then we can reasonably expect the same in other agencies of government.

Who would not want to see less disorder and greater discipline in the many government offices which people deal with throughout the working week? All too often we have had to endure brief spurts of energy among officials, which only results in our briefly enjoying decent government service, only for things to get worse after a few months.

Fewer forms, more organized lines, less waiting, an end to people with connections cutting lines and people paying fixers to ensure forms are attended to—in how many thousands of government offices could things improve, at no cost to the government?

Things have to start somewhere. Let it start in our streets. At a time of national depression and anxiety, public places that are a little safer, a little more organized, can result in a tremendous amount of public relief and provide a big boost to our people's flagging morale.

However, even as Aglipay gets off to a good start, we have to look to the future. Presuming he does well, does his six-month stint leave him enough time to really make things better?

The ability of a talented leader to actually get things done in our personalistic culture cannot be underestimated. But just as things can quickly turn around, they can, as quickly, degenerate. It is perhaps a good thing that at least his term has already been extended to six months, affording him the chance to get his plans going. After that, however, what? Back to the revolving door? Is this just all a palliative to allow Aglipay to retire in a blaze of glory?

Either he can do the job or he can't. If he can't, he shouldn't have been appointed. If he can, he deserves, and the country should expect, a full term as PNP chief. We cannot continue with half-baked, temporary, primarily politically motivated appointments to top positions. We have called the President to task for doing just that with her Cabinet; she shouldn't think she can get away with the same thing when it comes to peace and order.

Still, after the bungling and fumbling of the past, it is good to observe a new sense of dynamism in the police. Let's just hope it's not all for show. Going back to basics is serious business.

Honoring honesty

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

[illegible]

Sacrifice from everyone

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

[illegible]

To Congress: Just do it

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Powerless

YOUNG BLOOD

Again—is dialogue possible?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

A funny story

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Infallible views of the privileged

LETTERS

Aglipay needs more time to reform PNP

Population control could be an easy task if. . .

Dao tree's scientific name

Across the NATION

Davao cops say rights leader not victim of anti-crime vigilantes



SWAMPED

Militant women's group leader slain

Hospitals vow to make docs, nurses stay

Batangas journalist's slay suspect falls

ROUNDUP

NPA rebs disarm cop

Sex dens raided

Spurned cop kills 2

Missing Koreans found

Customs files more raps vs extorting cops



VICTORY

INQUIRER Visayas

Tourism department comes to Cebu

By Bernadette A. Parco
Cebu City

AFTER President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the "Malacañang sa Sugbo" open for business last month, another major transfer is expected next month, when the central office of the Department of Tourism moves to Cebu from Manila.

Primary hub

Personnel transfer

Temporary office

Fil-Am school for orphans now a premier college in Capiz

By Ronald Ureta and Barry Pagharion
Roxas City

IT started as an orphanage. Now, after a century, the Filamer Christian College (FCC), the oldest private school in Capiz, marks its 100 years of existence with the "grandest celebration" ever.



THE "CENTENNIAL building" of Filamer Christian College symbolizes the school's giant leap to progress.

Humble beginnings

Mission, vision

Boy cries for help: I want to live

By Jolene B. Bulambot
Cebu City

UNLIKE most children his age, June Mauris Arceo should have been in Grade 6 now (until he met an accident early this year that has brought a dramatic change in his life.



JUNE Mauris Arceo, 11, asks for help to get treatment to stop cancer cells from plaguing his own frail body.

Off guard

High chance

Prepare for '2 years of pain'

Generous package

Startling announcement

White paper

LGUs alarmed

Hard times

New schemes

200 congressmen OK pork cut—JDV

Reluctance

Powerful GMA

RP debt service ...

'Off-budget'

Another P148-B debt

Small amount for health

'Ugly fiscal picture'

Cannibalism eats up town's tourist image

Wedding dance

Media reports

Going loco over virgin coco

Virgin by any name

Oil you want

Taste and flavor

3 provinces in state of calamity; death toll hits 17

'Dike may not hold'

People on rooftops

Pangasinan also suffers

Landslide and floods

Damage to agriculture

US envoy vows: No retaliation vs Manila

'Treat them like adults'

More needs to be done

'Massacre of trees' in QC enrages environmentalists

METRO

Missionary seeks father's return



INNOCENCE

Captivity denied

Appliance maker

MetroBriefs

NBI arrests suspect in pyramid scam

Alleged kidnapper of balikbayan falls

Castro rape-slay trial gets a date

Family speaks up for Vandolph

Deadly gold hunt

Cabbie's body found

Manila tightens belt; hirings put on hold

Rizal town officer dies in ambush

High-stakes gambling solons

On Target



Ramon Tulfo

BUSINESS

August inflation seen surging to 6-6.6%



STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher on bargain hunting

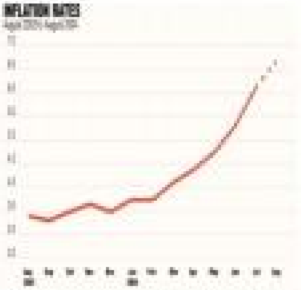


[illegible]

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER prices were expected to have risen by 6-6.6 percent in August from a year ago as global oil prices surged to record highs, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

[illegible]



[illegible]

Customs seeks stiff penalties on smuggling

[illegible]

PLDT readies alliances with regional telcos

[illegible]

Aboitiz group plans to bid for Masinloc power plant

MWC profit seen to hit ₱1B

DISCLOSURES

ERC asked to explain 17.3¢ Meralco rate hike



SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super Special

Back in Bohemia

JUST left the Philippines, the islands that I love!

I'm back in Bohemia and the neighborhood of kings. I believe the time has come for another one of my mildly entertaining updates. Many asked when my next Super! essay was due. The gap was something I did not anticipate at all. However, in the course of my absence I landed in Tim's Yaparazzi almost every week (there is a reason for everything)!

KULIT CO.



KC Concepcion

And because both Paris and Manila restlessly and effortlessly churn out never-ending tales, nothing can stop my hands from typing away as they're doing now, as though this were a personal blog (is that still the word used?).

So fret not. And thank you, INQUIRER, for this very public private space that allows me to reach out to the world with hopefully informative and in-depth randomness. My pursuit of excellence involves eliminating the definitive art of selective hearing, selective thinking, and selective Saturday-Super-ing. Let's give a big kiss to all of life's imperfections, celebrate happy thoughts, and smile. This is my way of thanking my dear readers for their loyalty. it's great motivation to know you are riding along!

> Here in Paris, I have learned to shampoo my hair and scrub the bath tub at the same time, and answer the door while brushing my teeth

Turbulence

Still on the road to discovering my Personal Legend. It is strange that, embarking on the journey away from life changes so quickly, and quite drastically, from point A—curfews, gated neighborhoods, bodyguards—to point B—"*Bahala ka sa sarili mo!*", "*Gumawa ka nga ng sariling diskarte.*"

I must admit that plane rides are starting to get scary. I think traveling alone quite a bit these days is making me even more paranoid that the more often I ride a plane, the more chances of some mishap taking place.

Just before I got into panic mode, the smell of peppermint oil permeated the cabin. This either distracted me or calmed my senses. Having transited through Bangkok, where people seem to become more and more laid back, nature-loving and soul-centered, I was pleasantly culture-shocked to find a Parisien couple seated three rows in front of me. Girl had her feet up, baby chuckles filling the air as Boy gave her a (presumably) free, if second-rate, Thai foot massage. The peppermint oil!

It got me thinking: there are times when we get sucked into the typical, the scripted, the routine. Until one little thing happens that makes us see through a child's eyes again. For Girl, it was forgetting urban stresses, kicking off her shoes and indulging in a simple pleasure. For me, it was realizing that I was on the upper deck of a plane for the very first time in my life, having had to climb a little stairwell to get to my seat. It was, I suddenly remembered, something I always wished to do as a child.

During take-off—hands shaking stupidly as a result of an irrational phobia for flying that was never there before—I managed to pull out a letter from my parents. It could be only one of two things, I thought: a literary masterpiece constructed to reprimand, or the usual parental love letter filled with wisdom, advice and all the mushy stuff that make children cry. I realized I didn't fear flight turbulence as much as I feared being freed again. As a defense mechanism, I started being afraid of acknowledging, and appreciating, the support and love that comes only from family. *Ay senti!*

48 hours after

Two mornings after the landing (yes, the plane did touch down in one piece, phew!), a sucker for sunlight couldn't possibly be disappointed. It was nice and warm and even more beautiful in the city! Surprisingly enough, things were slightly slower-paced, since most Parisiens had gone out of town. I must say it was sooo good to see that even this highly stressed society knew when it was time to take a break, and come back tan and happy!

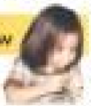
On my way back home from the supermarket G20, I spotted a print ad at the bus stop which said, "Paris—The City That Protects Love (*Paris—La Ville qui Protege L'Amour*)." The first 20 weeks that I lived here, I wasn't sure that this place wasn't too harsh for me. The next couple of months were more like, okay, people seem lonely here, and they find it suspicious when you smile. When April came, apart from the fact that my heart melted after 13 of my newest friends threw a fabulous surprise birthday cruise for me down the River Seine, I knew that things would get better as soon as I came to terms with, and then thrive on, my love for new worlds, eclectic people, languages, the arts and the fact that I am living where many artists came to be inspired.

The first year of being alone was like being put under construction! So many things had to be learned, that my heart and mind were taking such big bites at life. No rest, no room to taste and enjoy everything that was coming

BACK/C2

Where there's smoke...

OUT THE WINDOW



Tala Diaz



Failing lungs, social exile, financial woes–you'd think it would be so easy to quit smoking



"That's the third smoker we've lost this week."

Night falls in 'The Village'





Back in Bohemia



LEGALLY BLIND. Ivy Walker (Bryce Dallas Howard) chilling in the uncharted forest

Night falls in 'The Village'

(Spoiler alert! If you haven't seen 'The Village,' read at your own risk. Is M. Night Shyamalan a true genius or a one-trick pony?)

Age against the machine



Gino de la Paz

TO SOME degree, the barrage of slasher movies in the late 1990s made us all hope that the new millennium's thrillers would have a bit more bite and a lot less Jennifer Love Hewitt in them. Oddly enough, the heavens parted and answered our popcorn-fueled prayers. From the last end of the last decade up until now, we have pumped our fists in the air to celebrate the return of many creepy, big-gun chillers like "The Others" and "The Ring." Arguably though, it was M. Night Shyamalan's "The Sixth Sense" that started the spooky cavalcade.

[illegible]

Sci-faux

[illegible]



I CAN SEE RICH DIRECTORS. Joaquin Phoenix as Lucius Hunt

SATURDAY

Aliw award affirms Karel's exceptional gift



MARQUEZ: Her love for performing bloomed during "Magnificat" rehearsals.

By Nestor U. Torre

While the Aliw Foundation recently gave its first New Female Artist trophy to Karel Marquez, the core members of Ryan Cayabyab's long-running religious musical, "Magnificat," were especially thrilled, because they had practically seen the popular teen talent grow up in front of their very eyes.

This was because, since 1995, the musical had been holding some of its rehearsals in the home of lead singer-actress Pinky Marquez, Karel's mom. It was only natural, therefore, that as a child, Karel occasionally did some walk-on bits in the show.

Passion for theater

In some TV interviews, Karel has said that her love for performing bloomed during those rehearsals and performances, during which she imbibed the passion for theater that her mother Pinky shared with the musical's other original performers, like [illegible], Jingle Buena, [illegible].

For our part, we have always been struck by Karel's unique combination of "Frenchy" looks and husky singing voice. We urged Pinky to give her young daughter opportunities to perform, but it took years before Karel herself realized that she felt most fulfilled when she was singing and acting.

Once she had come to that realization, however, nothing could stop the already teenage Karel from quickly making her mark in the biz.

As an actress, she became a regular on some TV shows for teen viewers. Then, her singing talent got noticed when she guested in some musical programs. Her [illegible] in terms of acting and singing made her stand out even more in a field of beautiful young talents—who would do another well.

Career boost

But Karel's biggest career boost came when she was chosen over many other auditionees for the coveted slot of [illegible].

Despite all these successes, Karel continues to dream of doing more than just walk-on roles in theatrical productions. Which is why we sat down with Pinky to conceptualize a play that will star Pinky and Karel in a story about a mother and daughter, to be mounted early next year.

When we recently had our first reading of the script at their home in Magallanes Village, both Karel and Pinky empathized strongly with the characters they were playing.

Karel said she was thrilled to be playing her first major role onstage, and was especially delighted that she was doing it with her mother.

Karel's new Aliw award affirms what those who've known her for years have long been convinced of: That she's a young talent with a genuine gift and love for performing that will take her far in the field of [illegible].

SATURDAY *Special*

Tintin and Julius collaborate on book for children

By Mestor U. Torre

AFTER Michelle Van Eimeren, it's Tintin Bersola-Babao's turn to write a children's book for her kids. In Tintin's case, however, the beautifully unique thing is, her and hubby Julius Babao's first child has yet to be born, so her first book, "Bryan Learns His Lesson," is like her emotional and literary "investment" in its values-laden future.

Tintin shares, "I wrote this story during that period of time when I tested negative twice for pregnancy. I thought it would take longer for Julius and me to have a baby. So, with my future baby in mind, I wrote this book. This is our little gift to our Baby Babao. —But, happily during the production of the book, I got pregnant!"

Illustrations

Julius, who did the illustrations for Tintin's story, adds: "Here it is! What Tintin and I used to just discuss and plan over a cup of coffee has finally become a reality! I hope you enjoy reading our book."

Well, Julius and Tintin, we've read "Bryan Learns His Lesson" and we compliment you for coming up with a story



THE BABAOS. OB for the baby.

that promotes the inculcation of positive values in Filipino children in a clear, simple but significant way.

The book introduces young readers to Bryan, a very spoiled little boy whose parents are wealthy. As a result, Bryan takes the many blessings in his life for granted.

Rude

Instead of being grateful to his generous and loving parents, he is rude to them. In addition, he's lazy, always at the mall, always [illegible] ... What a brat!

Bryan is so fixated on himself and what he wants that he doesn't listen to his parents when they advise him to eat healthy food, like fruits and vegetables.

Instead, he gorges on junk food and becomes fat and listless. He's so lazy that he even forgets to pray before he sleeps.

Is there any hope for a big brat like Bryan? There is. In one of his dreams, everything good in his life is taken away from him, and he experiences how it feels to be poor, hungry and unloved.

The experience shocks Bryan into the belated realization that he shouldn't take



"BRYAN LEARNS HIS LESSON." Emotional and literary "investment."

his bountiful life for granted. When he wakes up, he promises his parents that he will be a very good boy from now on!

Right attitudes

Values-laden stories like this are sure to be appreciated by parents of young children who want their kids to acquire the right attitudes, and to be helpful, productive and loving members of their families, and of society.

Parents will be pleased to know that "Bryan Learns His Lesson" is only the first in a series of other stories by Tintin and Julius that Goodwill Publishing is planning to put out in the coming months.

Tintin and Julius' next titles are "Bah, it Kiya Meron, Ako Wala?" and "Super Queen." Call Goodwill at 895-8684.





BROSNAN AND MOORE. Gorgeous and talented actors.

NOW SHOWING

Lackluster romance

By Rito P. Asilo

"Laws of Attraction"
D: Peter Howitt
S: Pierce Brosnan, Julianne Moore

PIERCE Brosnan and Julianne Moore play battling divorce lawyers who represent opposing clients. He's suave and fancy-free, she's beautiful and uptight. Problem is, they're just too gorgeous not to fall for each other. Which love threatens to get in the way of their respective careers, they're left without a choice: They get hitched! But, can they mix business with pleasure?

There's a lot of the romantic formula at play here, and the tricks occasionally work. But, the film lacks the necessary wit and tongue-in-cheek fun that you'd expect in an amusing tussle between two gorgeous, talented actors.

Howitt's ("Sliding Doors") film fails to capitalize on the abundant charms of its fascinating leads. The story makes much ado about two individuals who deny their mutual attraction even when there is no considerable impediment in its plot that hinders them from immediately admitting that they do make sparks fly. But, then again, we can't have the movie end in just 15 minutes, right?

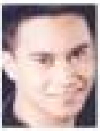
[illegible]



VALENCIANO. Striving a ... goal.



ARANETA. Combination of beauty and brains.



REYES. Stage actor and award-winning composer.

Young talents make their mark

Paolo Valenciano

Bianca Araneta

Mark Ruffalo



"Alien vs. Predator."

Lackluster . . .

"Thunderbirds"

"Alien Vs. Predator"

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor [illegible]

New films up the entertainment ante

By Nestor U. Torre

DURING the second half of the year, movie producers up the entertainment ante to keep viewers interested, bring three high-powered productions, which will be shown starting next month.

'De-Lovely'

A musical love story about Cole Porter (Kevin Kline), his public life, his life in secret, and the great music he made from both.

In the film, Porter looks back on his life as if it was one of his spectacular stage shows, with the people and events in his life becoming the actors and action onstage.

Through hits like "Night and Day," "It's De-Lovely" and "In the Still of the Night," Porter's elegant, [illegible] past comes to light, including his deeply complicated relationship with his wife, Linda (Ashley Judd).

'2046'

For her part, Zhang Ziyi stars in Wong Kar Wai's film, "2046," opposite Tony Leung. The film's story picks up right after the end of "In the Mood for Love."



ZHANG AND JUDD. Star in "2046" and "De-Lovely," respectively.

After Su Lizhen leaves, Zhou Muyun becomes a very lonely writer. He meets a prostitute (Zhang Ziyi) and spends a night with her in room 2046, the very same room where he had an affair with Su Lizhen.

Then, he starts writing a novel called "2046," in which he reunites with Su Lizhen. Chang Chen and Lee Ka-Ling play lovers, Wang Faye and Kimura Takuya are cast as a pair of [illegible] lovers. They are characters in the book, and they are all from the future.

'Secret Window'

Johnny Depp, John Turturro and Maria Bello star in the gripping suspense thriller, "Secret Window," written and directed by David Koepp, based on Stephen King's novella, "Secret Window, Secret Garden."

In the film, Depp plays a successful author who's in the midst of a painful divorce that has sapped his energy and creativity.

To make things worse, a psychotic stranger (Turturro) accuses him of plagiarizing his story. Turturro becomes increasingly hostile, invoking a twisted brand of justice that could include cold-blooded murder.

Forced into a deadly game of cat and mouse, Depp's character discovers that he has more [illegible] and [illegible] than he ever imagined.

Olympics' music set is a rich fusion of genres

By Rito P. Asilo

THE ATHENS Olympics' two-CD commemorative set, aptly titled "Unity" and "Harmony," is a rich fusion of musical genres. It boasts of collaborative efforts that combine mainstream pop (Destiny's Child, Jamelia, Sting, Alice Cooper, Earth Wind & Fire) and world music (Rachid Taha, Cheb Mami, Roots Manuva).

In "Unity," the pop crossover CD, Sting sings with Portuguese blues queen Mariza in "A Thousand Years," whose haunting melody is as powerful as her song's sentiments: "I may have lived a thousand years, a thousand times/ I may know things, I may be ignorant/ I may ride with kings or conquer lands, but I have one belief/ Eternity is still unsaid . . . until you love me." With seering vocals in English and Portuguese, this song alone is reason enough for you to get a copy of this collection.

Social relevance

Even the dance tracks are rife with social relevance: In Mr. G's "Issues," he whines about religion, hunger, poverty, violence, and more immediate concerns like kids' tuition fees, mortgage bills, "the taxation of everything"—all in under four minutes of terpsichorean music!

In "MKLVFKWR," Moby's electronica surprisingly harmonizes with Public Enemy's political digs: "Capitalists, communists, terrorists/ Swear to God I don't know the difference/ Making slaves out of immigrants/ Hear the bombs go, sent by the President!"

We were delighted to find the inclusion of Turkey's Tarkan, the all-female franco-african jazz group Les Nubians, and ambient music's Brian Eno hooking musical styles with pop music luminaries like Neneh Cherry and Wayne Wonder. Beres Hammond's reggae fuses well with Les Nubians' jazzy stylings in "All The Way."

Infectious melody

Mixing foreign languages with English works particularly well in "Still Standing," featuring a falsetto-singing Brian Eno, Skin and Rachid Taha. Macy Gray's duet, "Oh Yeah," with Nigerian blufunk artist Keziah Jones sizzles with its evocative incendiary beats and infectious melody.

Our top pick: Lenny Kravitz' "We Want Peace" mixes the acclaimed American musician's provocative guitar playing with Iraqi singer Kadim Al Sahir's Middle-Eastern chanting.

Anti-war sentiments run high. In the first track, Avril Lavigne's rendition of the Bob Dylan classic, "Knocking On Heaven's Door," resonates with truth and immediacy: "Mama, take the badge off me/ I can't use it anymore/ Mama, put my guns in the ground/ I can't shoot them anymore!"



LAVIGNE. Anti-war sentiments.

"Harmony," the set's 17-track collection of new age and classical music, gathers a similarly impressive collection: Sarah Brightman's "Time to Say Goodbye"; Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Pie Jesu," featuring Charlotte Church on vocals; the New Age piece, "Adiemus," with Miriam Stockley's amazing voice.

Top pick

Top pick: Placido Domingo's medley of "Maria Elena/ Corazon Corazon/ Fina Estampa" (culled from his 1997 CD, "My Latin Album"). With Spanish guitars dominating the rich symphony reminiscent of Henry Mancini, Domingo's voice caresses from beginning to end.

Amazingly, Maria Callas' rendition of "Qui Radames Verra . . . O Patria Mia" (from Verdi's "Aida") hasn't aged at all—to think that this was recorded live at Milan's La Scala almost 50 years ago!

Seminar for overseas performers

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

LAST Aug. 24, the Department of Labor and Employment, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, launched the Comprehensive Orientation Program for Overseas Performing Artists (Coppa) at the Heritage Hotel.

The event was in cooperation with the Confederated Association of Licensed Entertainment Agencies (Calea), Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines (Opap), Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (Pasei) and other NGOs.

Coppa, a two-day pre-departure orientation seminar for Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs), is a multi-sectoral brainchild of the government, the industry sector and concerned individuals, that aims to assist OPAs in coping with adjustment difficulties and the realities of a foreign work environment.

Six models

Its curriculum design is composed of six models: the Filipino OPA; industry stakeholders and institutional systems of support and services; self-development, sense for others and national identity; realities of being away from home and loved ones; occupational health, gender and sexuality concerns; and finance and economic management.

At the seminar, the Coppa concept and its significance to OPAs were explained. Owwa Administrator Virgilio R. Angelo, Ms Christie G. Buan, president of Calea, and Engr. Emmanuel L. Josue, executive director of Kaibigan ng OCWs, were the seminar's guest speakers.

E-mail mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph



COPPA LAUNCHING. (From left) Christie Buan, Tomochi Noguchi and Edwina Beech.